

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 SAN SA 00391 252241Z
ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-02 ARA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 USIA-06 /062 W
-----014091 252258Z /75
P 252200Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6780

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SAN SALVADOR 00391

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, ES
SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT - EL SALVADOR

REF: (A) STATE 014180, (B) STATE 018330

1. WE FIND THE DRAFT HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT ESSENTIALLY TO THE POINT
AND VERY WELL DONE.

2. WE HAVE SEVERAL COMMENTS FOR THE DEPARTMENT'S CONSIDERATION:

(A) THE DESCRIPTION OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS WHICH
ARE SUSPENDED UNDER A STATE OF SIEGE, IN THE INTRODUCTORY
PAR. TO THE TEXT SHOULD BE SPECIFIC RATHER THAN ILLUSTRATIVE,
THUS SAYING QTE THIS ENTAILED THE TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF THE CON-
STITUTIONAL RIGHTS OF FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY, MOVEMENT, SPEECH, AND
CORRESPONDENCE UNQTE. SEE SALVADORAN CONSTITUTION ARTICLES 154,
158 FIRST PARAGRAPH, 159, 160 AND 175. WE CONSIDER THIS IMPORT-
ANT SINCE IMPRECISION LEAVES OPEN QUESTION OF SUSPENSION OF
HABEAS CORPUS AND AUTHORIZATION OF ARBITRARY ARREST WITHOUT
TRIAL UNDER STATE OF SIEGE WHICH ARE NOT LEGAL IN ANY CASE.

(B) THE USE OF THE WORDS QTE LOCAL AUTHORITIES UNQTE AS
IN PAR 1 A IS CONFUSING SINCE THERE ARE NO QTE LOCAL AUTH-
ORITIES UNQTE IN THE AMERICAN SENSE. THEY ARE ALL PART OF THE
CENTRAL GOVERNMENT (EXCEPT FOR MAYOR AND MUNICIPAL POLICE WHICH
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 SAN SA 00391 252241Z

THE REPORT IS SURELY NOT REFERRING TO). IT IS SUGGESTED THE
WORD QTE SUBORDINATE UNQTE BE SUBSTITUTED FOR QTE LOCAL UNQTE.

(C) THE PHRASE QTE WHERE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT CONTROL IS MORE
TENUOUS UNQTE IN THIRD LINE OF PAR 1 B SHOULD BE STRICKEN SINCE
THE PHRASE IS MISLEADING. CENTRAL GOVERNMENT CONTROL IS PROBAB-
LY TIGHTER IN RURAL THAN IN URBAN AREAS THROUGH THE RURAL POLICE
FORCES (GUARDIA NACIONAL AND POLICIA DE HACIENDA) AND THE MILITARY

WITH ITS EXTENSIVE QTE TERRITORIAL SERVICE UNQTE, A VOLUNTARY AUXILIARY OF POSSIBLY 100,000 OR MORE. THAT SUBORDINATE ELEMENTS OF THESE FORCES MAY ACT INDEPENDENTLY AGAINST ORDERS OR TOO ENTHUSIASTICALLY GOING BEYOND ORDERS IS LIKELY, BUT THE PHRASE CONJURES UP ANOTHER, AND INCORRECT, IMAGE.

(D) THE QTE QTE LEFTIST UNQTE IN THE SENTENCE QTE THESE INCLUDED MURDER BY LEFTIST TERRORISTS OF THE COUNTRY'S FOREIGN MINISTER UNQTE, ETC., IN PAR 1 B SHOULD ALSO BE STRICKEN SINCE IT IS LESS THAN CERTAIN THE TERRORISTS THAT MURDERED THEM WERE QTE LEFTIST UNQTE.

(E) WE BELIEVE THAT THE SAME SENTENCE SHOULD INCLUDE MENTION OF TWO CATHOLIC PRIESTS WHO WERE MURDERED (FATHER GRANDE AND FATHER NAVARRO). THE REPORT WILL BE SUBJECT TO STRONG CRITICISM IF THE MENTION OF VICTIMS IS NOT SO BALANCED OFF. FURTHERMORE, THAT SUB-PARAGRAPH OPENS WITH QTE TERRORISM FROM BOTH THE LEFT AND THE RIGHT UNQTE AND MENTION OF SUPPOSED VICTIMS OF BOTH THE RIGHT AND THE LEFT SEEMS HIGHLY ADVISABLE.

(F) FIRST SENTENCE, PAR 1 E SHOULD READ QTE HOUSE-TO-HOUSE SEARCHES HAVE BEEN REGULAR PRACTICES OF PREVIOUS GOVERNMENTS. PRESIDENT ROMERO HAS REFRAINED FROM A GOVERNMENT POLICY OF UNWARRANTED SEARCH AND SEIZURE UNQTE. HOUSE-TO-HOUSE SEARCHES WERE IN FACT USED IN EARLY AND MID-1977 FOLLOWING THE FEBRUARY ELECTIONS, AND IN AGUILARES FOLLOWING THE EVACUATION OF SQUATTERS NEAR THE VILLAGE OF PAISNAL (WHICH COULD BE MENTIONED), BUT WE RECALL NONE ASSOCIATED WITH THE QTE KIDNAPPING AND MURDER OF FOREIGN MINISTER BORGONOVO UNQTE AS SUCH.
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 SAN SA 00391 252241Z

(G) IN PAR 2 PERCENTAGES OF NATIONAL BUDGET FOR HEALTH CARE AND EDUCATION MAY HAVE BEEN GARBLED BUT SHOULD READ 7.5 PERCENT INSTEAD OF 11 PERCENT FOR HEALTH CARE AND QTE 20 PERCENT OR MORE UNQTE INSTEAD OF 5 PERCENT FOR EDUCATION.

(H) AT THE END OF PAR 2 THE CLAUSE QTE FROM THE WEALTHY UNQTE SHOULD BE DROPPED SINCE WE ARE NOW CONVINCED THAT THE INCIDENCE OF THE COST OF CORRUPTION PROBABLY FALLS MOST HEAVILY ON THE POOR SINCE THE WEALTHY HAVE THE CAPABILITY TO PASS ON THIS COST IN GENERAL TO THE COMMODITIES THAT THE POOR BUY. COST ALSO PASSED ON THROUGH INCREASED COST OF GOVERNMENT SERVICES.

(I) WE WOULD NOT SAY IN PAR 3 A THAT SINCE THE STATE OF SIEGE HAD BEEN LIFTED FREEDOM OF RELIGION HAS BEEN RESPECTED; NOR HAS FULL FREEDOM OF CORRESPONDENCE BEEN RESPECTED. WE SUGGEST THAT THE REPORT SAY SOMETHING ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES;-- QTE FREEDOM OF RELIGION IS POSSIBLY BEING INHIBITED IN THE COUNTRY-SIDE AS A RESULT OF OFFICIAL AND EVEN SOME PUBLIC BELIEF THAT THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IS INFILTRATED WITH REVOLUTIONARY PRIESTS WHO EXHORT THE PEOPLE TO WHAT ARE CONSIDERED TO BE ILLEGAL ACTS UNQTE. ALSO WE HAVE SOME REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THE GOVERNMENT SECURITY FORCES MAY CONTINUE TO OPEN AND CENSOR MAIL, WHICH IS CONSTITUTIONALLY AUTHORIZED ONLY DURING A STATE OF

SIEGE.

(J) FINALLY, WE FEEL THIS REPORT COULD APPROPRIATELY MENTION THAT THERE HAS BEEN MISTREATMENT OF AMERICAN CITIZENS WHO WERE DETAINED OVER THE PAST YEAR AND THAT THE US FOUND IT NECESSARY ALSO TO PROTEST FAILURE OF SALVADORAN AUTHORITIES TO COMPLY WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE VIENNA CONVENTION ON CONSULAR RELATIONS WITH REGARD TO NOTIFICATION OF RIGHT OF ACCESS TO CONSULAR AGENTS. THE REPORT SHOULD ADD THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF PRESIDENT ROMERO HAS GIVEN ASSURANCES OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE CONVENTION, BUT A LONGER TERM EDUCATION PROCESS IS PROBABLY NECESSARY BEFORE VIOLATIONS ARE COMPLETELY ELIMINATED.

DEVINE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978SANSAA00391
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780038-0032
Format: TEL
From: SAN SALVADOR
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780124/aaaaatwh.tel
Line Count: 128
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 2bc9a1e0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION HA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 14180, 78 STATE 18330
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3716399
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT - EL SALVADOR
TAGS: SHUM, ES
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2bc9a1e0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014